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UNCLAS OTTAWA 000686

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EB/TPP/MTA ROBERT DOWNES
GENEVA FOR USTR DAVID SHARK

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CANADA SUPPORTS WTO BUDGET REFORM

REF: STATE 50656

1. Canada supports the U.S. objective, outlined Reftel, to reform the WTO budget process and move towards a two-year budget cycle, according to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Senior Trade Policy Officer Dean Steadman. Steadman told Econoff that the WTO needs "results-based budgetary and accounting systems" and feels that moving towards a biennial budget process is one of a number of reforms that should be considered. Steadman will be the GOC point of contact on this issue.

2. Steadman noted that he had raised the issue with the Canadian mission in Geneva during a visit last week. He said that although his Geneva colleagues were supportive of the idea, they noted that the ongoing Doha round negotiations would make it difficult for them or others to focus on WTO budgetary reform at this time.
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